



The Providence Online

2006 February Edition



The Providence Online is a monthly electronic newsletter from the Office of the Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth and provides information and updates for Providence residents.

Senior Citizen Issues Meeting

The Mantua Civic Association and the Providence District Supervisor are co-sponsoring a Senior Citizens Issues Meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at the Mantua Elementary School Cafeteria, 9107 Horner Court in Fairfax.

The meeting will begin with opening remarks and a welcome as well as a presentation from Chairman Connolly on tax breaks for seniors. This will be followed by panel presentations on Transportation for Seniors, Affordable Senior Housing, Community-Based Senior Services and Medicare Part D. There will then be an opportunity for questions and answers and a resource fair where you will be able to ask the expert or have a hands-on demonstration of Medicare Part D or SeniorNavigator.

A very large portion of County residents are either seniors themselves or are responsible for providing care, advice or assistance to seniors. This meeting is intended to serve as an opportunity for anyone interested in seniors' issues to learn some of what the County has available.

For more information about this meeting please call the Office of the Providence District Supervisor at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

Pedestrian Task Force Final Report

The final report of the Fairfax County Pedestrian Task Force was presented to the Board of Supervisors during its Jan. 23 meeting. The report is the result of more than a year of work by the task force to fulfill its mission to develop a plan for implementing safe and effective pedestrian facilities and a coordinated and collaborative education/outreach program. The Pedestrian Task Force consisted of residents, appointed commission members and multi-disciplined staff.

"This document will not just sit on a shelf; it will be implemented," Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly told the task force members. "Improving pedestrian safety is an essential part of the county's Four-Year Transportation Plan." The board has designated close to \$11 million in federal, state and county funding under the direction of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to construct pedestrian improvements.

The report targeted a list of priority safety education and capital improvement recommendations. In the report, the task force said its work is intended to foster an improved environment for pedestrians in the future and lay the foundation for realistic future improvement programs to benefit all Fairfax County residents. "It is hoped," the task force said in the report, "that in the near future Fairfax County can continue to:

- Reduce the number of pedestrian/vehicle collisions and their associated deaths and injuries.
- Provide residents a safe, accessible and practical alternative to using a car for local trips.
- Allow children living within walking distance of their school to have a safe walking route to school."

The Fairfax County Pedestrian Task Force Final Report is available on the Fairfax County Department of Transportation Web site at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.htm>

**Subscription to the Providence Online –
Providence District e-newsletter- is available
on the following county Web site:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists**

**Please feel free to share all editions of the
Providence Online with your neighborhood!**

Upcoming Events – Budget Workshop

Date: March 9, 2006

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Fairhill Elementary School - Cafeteria
3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax

The Budget Workshop will be hosted by the Office of the Providence District Supervisor and the Department of Management and Budget, Fairfax County.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing April 3, 4 & 5

The Office of the County Executive will propose to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors the budget for the county, early February. The Board welcomes residents to participate during the public hearing at the budget meeting scheduled for **April 3, 4 & 5**. The budget hearing will be held in the Board Auditorium in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fairfax.

Supervisor Smyth welcomes Providence residents to attend the Providence District Budget Workshop on March 9 at Fairhill Elementary School at 7 p.m. Staff from the Department of Management and Budget will be on hand to present the County Executive's budget proposal, discuss the budgetary process, provide guidance on citizen participation as well as respond to questions from the audience.

More information is available by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the following county Web site:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm
or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/

Upcoming Events – Senior Tax Relief Workshop

Date: March 15, 2006

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Place: Office of the Providence District Supervisor
8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax

*This event is being hosted by the Office of the Providence District Supervisor and the Department of Tax Administration, Fairfax County.
Please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711 to make an appointment for this workshop*

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on October 17, 2005 on an expansion of the Real Estate Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Disabled. The ordinance was approved, increasing the net combined financial asset eligibility requirement for tax relief from \$240,000 to the state maximum of \$340,000 for those who meet the age, disability and income requirements. The income has increased from \$52,000 to the fixed state maximum of \$72,000.

The tax relief change is retroactive to all of tax year 2005, and existing applicants who have already been certified for some level of real estate tax relief for 2005 will not need to reapply. The Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will automatically review partial exemptions and adjust them as may be applicable for the second installment due in December. DTA will also re-examine any 2005 applications previously denied due to the existing income and asset limits. New applicants will still have to file for 2005 tax relief under the new limits.

More tax relief information is available on the county Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Seniors.htm or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/tax_relief.htm or by calling 703-222-8234, TTY 711. ▪

The Cross County Trail

On December 17, 2005, The Cross Country Trail was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce its presence to the public. The 38-mile long trail runs through some of the county's most scenic areas, beginning at Great Falls National Park on the mighty Potomac River and extending south to the Occoquan River and Laurel Hill, formerly known as Lorton Prison.

The Trail is a strong symbol of community connections for its involved citizens. Hundreds of volunteers give irreplaceable time and talent to county non profits, fire stations, schoolrooms and the Park Authority (the agency's eight nature centers and historic sites boast 700+ volunteers, making it the envy of the nation). And sometimes, citizens blaze trails.

More information on The Cross Country Trail is available on the Fairfax County Park Authority's Web site at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct/>



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

You are invited to participate in a community dialogue on the future of Tysons Corner.

The Tysons Land Use Task Force* is hosting approximately 20 community dialogues to identify what is important to the community regarding the future growth of Tysons Corner and how the introduction of rail stations will affect growth. This series of dialogues will be the initial step in gathering community input on the future of Tysons.

A series of community dialogues are being scheduled for the residential, business and non-profit communities in the Tysons area.

Please call the Tysons Community Dialogue Hotline at (703) 324-1344 for scheduling information.

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Please call 703-324-1334, TTY 711, for more information.

What will happen at the community dialogues?

Residents, business and property owners, commuters, and nonprofit organizations will meet in groups of 30 to 50 throughout Tysons Corner to discuss their values and concerns regarding growth and development throughout Tysons and near proposed rail stations. Participants will be provided a short presentation on Task Force activities, followed by small group discussions to identify their values and concerns and then share the results of these discussions with the entire group. The results of all dialogues will be captured and included in a final report for the Task Force.

What will happen with the input provided through these dialogues?

The Task Force will use the input from the dialogues to help shape their recommendations about revisions to the Tysons Corner Comprehensive Plan. The Task Force will develop options to be considered in the Comprehensive Plan and provide additional opportunities for public input in the evaluation of those options before any final decisions are made.

How can I provide input?

Dialogues are being scheduled throughout January and early February. If you are unable to attend a dialogue, you may provide your comments online at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner>

Please RSVP

Please call the **Tysons Community Dialogue Hotline at (703) 324-1344** to reserve a space for yourself in one of the dialogues, or send an **e-mail to tysonscornerspecialstudy@fairfaxcounty.gov**. Dialogue locations have different capacities, please let us know that you are coming so that we can accommodate as many people as possible.



* The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed the Task Force (officially called the Coordinating Committee) to update the 1994 Tysons Comprehensive Plan in order to promote mixed use, facilitate transit-oriented development (TOD), enhance pedestrian connections throughout Tysons, increase the residential component of the density mix, improve the functionality of the area, and provide for amenities and aesthetics such as public spaces, art, and parks. The Task Force is also charged with the coordination of community input on the potential changes in the Comprehensive Plan.

Board of Supervisors Agenda

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The draft and final agendas are available on the Board of Supervisors Agenda Web site. To locate information for a specific district in the agenda, click on the binocular icon on the PDF's Adobe Acrobat toolbar and enter the district name into the Adobe Acrobat search function. Click on "search" and use the list that appears to link to agenda items related to the specific district.

Supervisors meetings are aired live on the county government's cable TV Channel 16. A replay of the morning session is aired the next day, Tuesday, at 8 p.m. A replay of the entire meeting is cablecast each Saturday following the board meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Channel 16 also cablecasts the agenda for each board meeting at 8 p.m. on the Friday and Sunday preceding each Monday meeting. The agenda is aired as part of the Channel 16 Bulletin Board on the Monday morning of the board meeting beginning at 8 a.m. A review copy of the final board agenda also is available at county regional libraries on the Friday prior to each Monday meeting.

Each regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors begins with recognition of citizens and presentations. Presentation photos from the recent most meeting are available on the Office of Public Affairs Presentations Web site.

For more information, questions or a printed copy of the meeting agenda is available by calling The Office of the County Executive at 703-324-2531, TTY 711 or by emailing to CoExec@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The meeting times and agenda are available on the Planning Commission's Calendar. To locate information for a specific district in the agenda, click on the binocular icon on the PDF's Adobe Acrobat toolbar and enter the district name into the Adobe Acrobat search function. Click on "search" and use the list that appears to link to agenda items related to the specific district.

Planning Commission meetings are also aired live on the county government's cable TV Channel 16.

For more Planning Commission information, questions or a printed copy of the agenda is available by calling the Planning Commission office at 703-324-2865, TTY 703-324-7951 or by emailing to PlanCom@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The meeting times and agenda are available on the Weekly Agenda. To locate information for a specific district in the agenda, click on the binocular icon on the PDF's Adobe Acrobat toolbar and enter the district name into the Adobe Acrobat search function. Click on "search" and use the list that appears to link to agenda items related to the specific district.

Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are aired live on the county government's cable TV Channel 16.

For more Board of Zoning Appeals information or questions is available by calling the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1280, TTY 711 or on the following county Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/bza/.

Seventh Annual Providence District Environmental Workshop

hosted by Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Date: April 1

Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Fairhill Elementary School
3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax

More information on the Seventh Annual Providence District Environmental Workshop is available on the following county Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711.



The Avian Bird Flu

Will an influenza pandemic be caused by the bird-flu in Asia?

Although the Health Department is concerned about avian (bird) influenza and its potential to develop into a pandemic, we need to address pandemic influenza planning as a whole, not just planning for the spread of the strain of avian influenza now in SE Asia. We don't know if avian influenza will spread and develop into a worldwide pandemic. The next pandemic could be with a completely different strain of influenza, and could come from a different part of the world. The Health Department's planning for pandemic influenza addresses a broad range of issues.

Although there have been bird flu type viruses seen in poultry flocks in the USA, it is not the same type of virus as in Asia and they do not cause serious disease in humans. Public health and agriculture agencies work closely to monitor and control these situations.

What risks do Fairfax County residents face due to the Asian bird flu?

The current risk to persons in this area from the H5N1 bird flu outbreak in Asia is low. The strain of H5N1 virus found in Asia has not been found in the United States. There have been no human cases of H5N1 flu in the United States. It is possible that travelers returning from affected countries in Asia could be infected, though the risk of this type of transmission to the United States is relatively small because the rate of illness in affected countries is still very low. Since February 2004, medical and public health personnel have been watching closely to find any such cases.

More information and discussion on the Avian bird is available on the Fairfax County Department of Health's Pandemic Influenza Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/pandemicflu.htm and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/ or by calling the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411; TTY 703-591-6435

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Service 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 ■ Rape Crisis Hotline: (703) 360-7273

Adult Education	703-227-2200	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-830-1100	Child care	703-449-9555
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)	800-435-5137	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4548
Human Services	703-222-0880	Office for Women	703-324-5730
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5550
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School information	703-246-2502	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-5411
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up (County)	703-802-3322
VDOT	703-383-VDOT	Voting Information	703-222-0776

For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call 703-803-7914 TTY or the 703-222-0880 voice intake number.